GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3553
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2001
UNDP SPONSORED SPICES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
MALYALA RAJAIAH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UNDP sponsored integrated spices Development programme proposed to be launched in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a)&(b): The Spices Board under Ministry of Commerce and Industry is implementing a UNDP project titled `Integrated Development of Spice Industry` for a period of three years from January, 1999 with a UNDP input of US $ 1.124 million.

The primary objective of the Project is to make available clean hygienically processed spices in higher quantities for export. The project also focused on increased income generation and employment opportunities at different stages of spices production, processing, value addition and marketing to the rural communities in the spices sector. Women groups and rural poor are given priority in the beneficiary groups. The project also seeks to promote environment friendly and organic cultivation practices in spices growing.

The major components of the project are:-

(i) Development of organic production of herbal spices in Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu and production of organic ginger and turmeric in the tribal areas of Phulbani District in Orissa.

(ii) Introduction of Integrated Pest Management and Disease Management Practices in selected areas and in identified spices like pepper and cardamom in Idukki and Wyanadu Districts of Kerala, Chillies and Coriander in Wrangal and Guntur Districts of Andhra Pradesh, Seed Spices in Patan District of Gujarat and Jalawar and Baran Districts in Rajasthan. The Integrated Pest Management-Integrated Disease Management (IPM-IDM) package of practices are developed and the growers are given necessary training in the package of practices. The intervention is through selected NGOs in the identified villages.

(iii) Improvement of organic cultivation of exportable varieties of Spices from North-East. The Spices identified are ginger, turmeric and chillies.

(iv) Promoting research on nutritional and medicinal properties of spices by identified food research Institutes of the country.

(v) Imparting training to Scientist and lab technicians in the export industry and board to upgrade there skills on food quality analysis.

(vi) Market promotion programmes for value added spices and spice products with particular reference to organically produced spices.